

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications from a first device using ~~Bluetooth~~ a wireless network communications protocol, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a temporary identification number for the first wireless network device; and
anonymously transmitting information including the temporary identification number from the first wireless network device.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining further comprises the step of generating the temporary identification number at the first wireless network device.

3. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of generating further comprises generating the temporary identification number using an algorithm.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of generating further comprises generating the temporary identification number at a ~~Bluetooth~~ chip within the first wireless network device.

5. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of generating the temporary identification number on a periodic basis.

6. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of generating the temporary identification number at random intervals.

7. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of generating the temporary identification number at a beginning of a transaction.

8. (original) The method of Claim 2, further including the steps of generating an access code identifying a format of the temporary identification number.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of transmitting further includes transmitting information including the temporary identification number and the access code.

10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further including the step of periodically obtaining a new temporary identification number to be associated with the first wireless network device.

11. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining further comprises the step of receiving a temporary identification number from a source located remotely from the first wireless network device.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of receiving further comprises the steps of:

requesting the temporary identification number from the remote source; and

receiving the temporary identification number from the remote source responsive to the request.

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of requesting the temporary identification number further includes the steps of:

generating a random identification number at the first wireless network device; and

using the random identification number within the request for the temporary identification number.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of generating a random identification number comprises the step of randomly generating a portion of bits comprising a ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device address.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim 14, further including the step of periodically regenerating the portion of the bits comprising the ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device address.

16. (currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of generating a random identification number comprises the step of randomly generating 32 bits of the 48 bits of the ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device addresses.

17. (currently amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of generating a random identification number comprises the step of randomly generating lower address part (LAP) and upper address part (UAP) fields of a ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device address.

18. (original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of receiving a temporary identification number further comprises receiving an identity token for use as the temporary identification number broadcast from the remote source.

19. (original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the identity token is substantially continuously broadcast.

20. (original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of receiving further comprises the step of receiving the temporary identification number responsive to an inquiry from the remote source.

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the remote source is ~~comprises a non-Bluetooth device~~ that is not operating according to the wireless network communications protocol.

22. (currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the remote source is ~~comprises a Bluetooth device~~ operating according to the wireless network communications protocol.

23. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining further comprises the steps of:

storing multiple temporary identification numbers within the first wireless network device; and

randomly selecting one of the multiple temporary identification numbers as the temporary identification number.

24. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining further comprises the steps of:

establishing a first connection between the first wireless network device and a second wireless network device;

exchanging data over the first connection between the first and the second wireless network devices; and

generating the temporary identification number using the exchanged data.

25. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein the data comprises a non-temporary identification number and an index value.

26. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first Bluetooth wireless network device and a second Bluetooth wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

generating a temporary identification number at the first Bluetooth wireless network device using an algorithm within the first Bluetooth wireless network device;

inserting the temporary identification number as a Bluetooth wireless network identification number into messages to be transmitted from the first Bluetooth wireless network device; and

anonymously transmitting the messages from the first Bluetooth wireless network device to the second Bluetooth wireless network device.

27. (original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of generating the temporary identification number on a periodic basis.

28. (original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of generating the temporary identification number at random intervals.

29. (original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of generating the temporary identification number at a beginning of a transaction.

30. (currently amended) The method of Claim 26, further including the step of periodically obtaining a new temporary identification number to be associated with the Bluetooth a wireless network communications protocol.

31. (original) The method of Claim 30, further including the step of inserting a period of time the temporary identification number is valid into the message.

32. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first Bluetooth wireless network device and a second Bluetooth wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

establishing a first connection between the first wireless network device and the second Bluetooth wireless network device;

exchanging a non-temporary identification number and an index value over the first connection between the first Bluetooth and the second Bluetooth wireless network devices, the non-temporary identification number and index value being associated with the first wireless network device;

generating a temporary identification number using the non-temporary identification number and an index value; and

anonymously establishing a second connection between the first Bluetooth wireless network device and the second Bluetooth wireless network device using the temporary identification number as a Bluetooth wireless network device identification number associated with the first wireless network device.

33. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first Bluetooth wireless network device and a second Bluetooth wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

generating a random identification number at the first Bluetooth wireless network device;

transmitting a request including the random identification number as a Bluetooth wireless network device identification number to the second Bluetooth wireless network device;

transmitting a response to the request including a temporary identification number from the second Bluetooth wireless network device to the first Bluetooth wireless network device; and

establishing anonymous communications between the first and the second Bluetooth wireless network devices using the temporary identification number as a Bluetooth wireless

network device identification number, the temporary identification number associated with the first wireless network device.

34. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first Bluetooth wireless network device and a second Bluetooth wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting an identity token from a location;

receiving the identity token at the first Bluetooth wireless network device; and

anonymously transmitting messages from the first Bluetooth wireless network device to the second Bluetooth wireless network device including the identity token therein as a Bluetooth wireless network device identification number.

35. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first Bluetooth wireless network device and a second Bluetooth wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

generating a Bluetooth wireless network device address having randomly generated lower address part (LAP) and upper address part (UAP) fields; and

establishing a connection between the first Bluetooth wireless network device and the second Bluetooth wireless network device using the generated Bluetooth wireless network device address.

36. (currently amended) The method of Claim 35, further including the steps of:

establishing a security pairing between the first Bluetooth wireless network device and the second Bluetooth wireless network device; and

exchanging fixed Bluetooth wireless network device addresses between the first Bluetooth wireless network device and the second Bluetooth wireless network device.

37. (currently amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein the step of establishing further comprises the steps of:

generating an access code from the generated ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device address;
and

paging the second ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device from the first ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device using the generated access code.

38. (currently amended) A ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device, comprising:

circuitry for communicating from the ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device to a second ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device; and

a module for obtaining a temporary identification number for use in anonymous communication from the ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device to the second ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device.

39. (currently amended) The ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device of Claim 38, further including a first storage area for storing the temporary identification number.

40. (currently amended) The ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device of Claim 39, further including a second storage area for storing a fixed identification number associated with the ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device.

41. (currently amended) The ~~Bluetooth~~ device of Claim 38, further including a table for storing of temporary identification numbers associated with other ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network devices communicating with the ~~Bluetooth~~ wireless network device.

42. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first wireless network device and a second wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

generating a temporary identification number at the first wireless network device using an algorithm within the first wireless network device;

inserting the temporary identification number as a wireless network identification number into messages to be transmitted from the first wireless network device; and

anonymously transmitting the messages from the first wireless network device to the second wireless network device.

43. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first wireless network device and a second wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

establishing a first connection between the first wireless network device and the second wireless network device;

exchanging a non-temporary identification number and an index value over the first connection between the first wireless network device and the second wireless network devices device;

generating a temporary identification number using the non-temporary identification number and an index value; and

anonymously establishing a connection between the first wireless network device and the second wireless network device using the temporary identification number as a wireless network identification number associated with the first device.

44. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first wireless network device and a second wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

generating a random identification number at the first wireless network device;

transmitting a request including the random identification number as a wireless network identification number to the second wireless network device;

transmitting a response to the request including a temporary identification number from the second wireless network device to the first wireless network device;

establishing anonymous communications between the first and the second wireless network devices using the temporary identification number as a wireless network identification number associated with the first device.

45. (currently amended) A method for enabling anonymous communications between a first wireless network device and a second wireless network device, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting an identity token from a location;

receiving the identity token at the first wireless network device; and

anonymously transmitting messages from the first wireless network device to the second wireless network device including the identity token therein as a wireless network identification number.